THE RaRa e-RAG

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"Stop, Thief!"

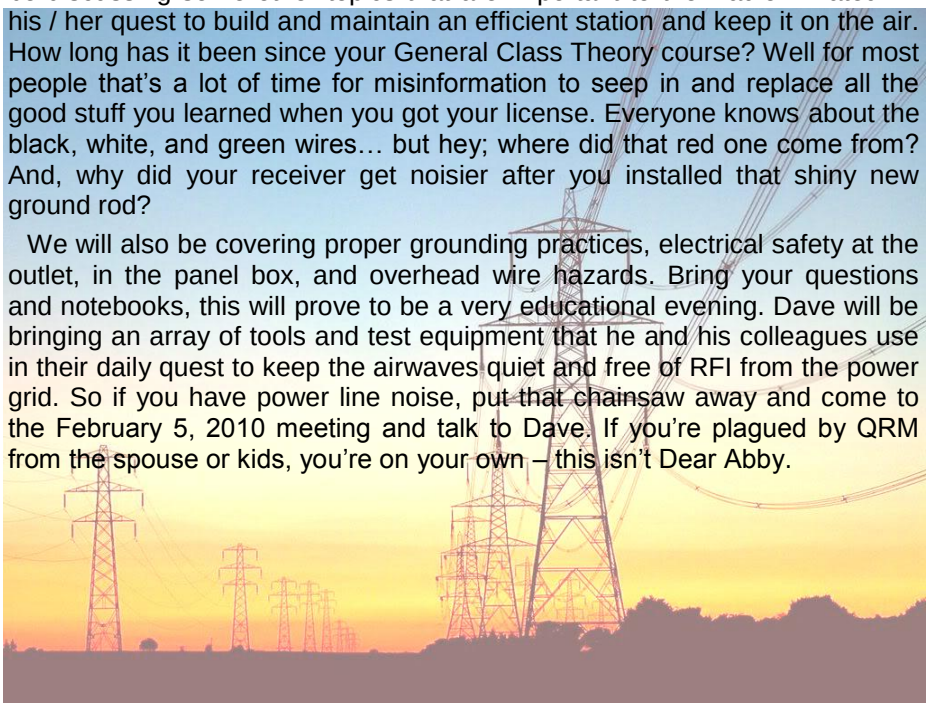
By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice President, RaRa

At one time or another all hams cross paths with this crook. It just shows up one day, uninvited with no forewarning and robs you of reception ability. All of a sudden your noise floor is S-7 and climbing until your S-meter cries "uncle" with no more to give. Only the very strongest signals can be heard over the hiss and buzz. No, I'm not talking about the QRM coming from your spouse or kids… Of course I'm talking about Power Line Noise! UGH… what do you do? Who are you going to call; Ghostbusters? No, Dave Shields! AKA "Super Dave" to those who have seen him in action.

Dave Shields, P.E. Lead Engineer-Power Quality from Rochester Gas and Electric Corp. has all the right tools and answers, and he's not afraid to use them. Dave knows how to keep power line noise out of your radio and he's coming to our February meeting to teach us how to identify, locate, and work with RG&E to remediate or even eliminate power line noise. This is a lesson you can't afford to miss!

In addition to power line noise identification and remediation, Dave will also be discussing some other topics that are important to the Radio Amateur in his / her quest to build and maintain an efficient station and keep it on the air. How long has it been since your General Class Theory course? Well for most people that's a lot of time for misinformation to seep in and replace all the good stuff you learned when you got your license. Everyone knows about the black, white, and green wires… but hey; where did that red one come from? And, why did your receiver get noisier after you installed that shiny new ground rod?

We will also be covering proper grounding practices, electrical safety at the outlet, in the panel box, and overhead wire hazards. Bring your questions and notebooks, this will prove to be a very educational evening. Dave will be bringing an array of tools and test equipment that he and his colleagues use in their daily quest to keep the airwaves quiet and free of RFI from the power grid. So if you have power line noise, put that chainsaw away and come to the February 5, 2010 meeting and talk to Dave. If you're plagued by QRM from the spouse or kids, you're on your own – this isn't Dear Abby.



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Silent Key

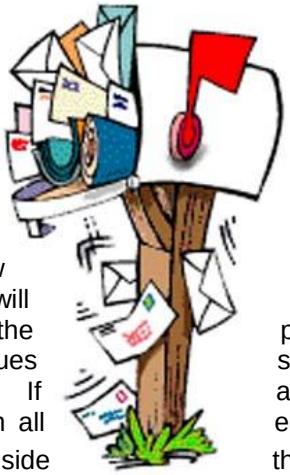
Richard C. Miller, N2QQI
January 13, 2010

The Prez Sez

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
President, RaRa

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and took full advantage of the nice long weekends. No major ham radio gear was under the tree for me this year and that is okay. As most of us hams know the holiday season for great purchases starts in May at Dayton and continues into June at the Rochester Hamfest. The Hamfest committee has been hard at work through the winter to make the 2010 edition better than the 2009 event.

Back in the December issue of the RAG I commented on the annual Directory that gets published every year around February. I wanted to get a feel for the usefulness of the Directory when the information is so readily available on the internet. I found out that some people do not have internet in their bathrooms and they enjoy looking at the Directory during quiet time. For some it is a sentimental thing. There are others that just like to collect and save everything. In the same December issue of the RAG I made an idle threat that if you wanted the Directory you would need to sign up on line or leave a message at the phone number that was given. 32 responses were received and it could be interpreted a number of ways. Maybe only 32 people read the RAG or 468 people do not want the Directory.



After much discussion and debate the 2010 Directory will be published and will arrive in your mailbox soon. The Directory was advertised as a benefit of membership this year so there was some obligation to honor it. The other item that weighed in was all the effort that Lynn Bisha (W2BSN) put in to clean up the directory and get it current.

Over the next few months the Board of Directors and Officers will be discussing the mailed RAG, the e-RAG, the printing and mailing of a Directory and the dues structure for the 2010-2011 membership year. If anyone would like to weigh in on these issues I am all ears.

Be on the lookout inside this year's RARA Directory for a **postage-paid pre-addressed** postcard that will help your organization to best allocate RARA's resources for future publications. The postcard should be returned promptly from the mid-February publication with your selection boxes checked for receiving the future Directories and RARA RAG.

Club elections will be here before you know it. If you have an interest in being a club officer or sitting on the Board of Directors please let me know. We need fresh faces and fresh ideas to keep the club strong.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on February 5, 2010. As always the coffee will be hot, the soda will be cold, and the donuts will be fresh!

Calendar of Events

Feb 5 RaRa Meeting
7:30 PM, Henrietta FD #1

Feb 10 LEPC Meeting
8:30 AM, 1190 Scottsville Rd
Rm 200

Feb 10 RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Bldg-17, Room 2110

Feb 16 RDXA Meeting
7:30 PM, 1190 Scottsville Rd
Rm 200

Feb 19 RRRA Meeting
8:00 PM, Pittsford Town Hall

Feb 20 VE Testing
10:00 AM, RIT
Bldg-9, Room 3139

Feb 25 ARES Meeting
7:00 PM, Red Cross
50 Prince St.

Feb 27 ARAST Winter Hamfest

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Monroe County LEPC

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

The next meeting of Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday morning February 10, 2010, at 8:30 AM at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road in the OEC, Suite 200.

The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome. Please sign in as an amateur radio guest; coffee and doughnuts will be available.

The Wednesday 8:30 AM meeting LEPC Schedule for 2010: February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, September 8, October 13 and November 10.

Some emergency notifications that are available:
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/monroecountyoem
Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/monroecountyoem
Anyone can also signup for local and state emergency notification on http://www.monroecounty.gov the county website

Upgrade with Spring 2010 License Course

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA License Class Coordinator

Course: General Class License. This course is for folks who have a Technician Class License and want to upgrade to General. (See www.rochesterham.org)

When: Nine Thursdays, March 18th through May 13th
License testing available Saturday June 5th at the Rochester Hamfest (See www.rochesterham.org).

Time: 6:30 PM – Classes lasting for about 2 hours

Location: RIT Campus, Building 9
Room: 09-1129
Use Parking Lot F or J
See map at
http://facilities.rit.edu/campus/maps/general/general.pdf

Registration: March 18th at 6:30 PM, in assigned classroom.

Tuition: **Nonmembers:**
For nonmembers, $43 (includes course fee, 1 year Full Membership in RARA, and ARRL General Class license textbook)

RARA Members:
For existing RARA members, $28 which includes the textbook ($24) and course fee ($4).

Payment at time of registration. Make check payable to *Rochester Amateur Radio Association*.

Walk-ins are welcome but it is strongly recommended that you make a reservation because classroom space is limited. For more information and to reserve space in the course, contact:

Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
License Course Coordinator
585-389-1926 (home)
585-721-2117 (cell)

VE NEWS

The December 19th test session was held at RIT with 3 candidates resulting in one new Technician, an upgrade to General and an upgrade to Extra.

Vincent	Cardillo	KC2WHR	T
Eric	Tripp	KC2URI	G
David	Matthews	KB2YWT	E

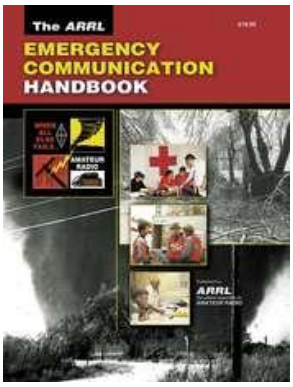
RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing is held on the 3rd Saturday of each Month, September through April.

Registration begins at 10:00AM in RIT Building 9, Room 3139
(click for map)

Contact Ken Hall, W2KRH for space reservations.

Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE



For February's Raffle we're focusing on Emergency Preparedness. From the book dept. we have the ARRL's "Emergency Communication Handbook". This covers such things as Emergency Communication Organizations & Systems, ARES, RACES, MARS and other organizations. Other topics include; Message Handling, net operation, equipment choices, setup, and many other emergency subjects.

Our second item is the ever popular Mini MAGLITE 2 AA LED Flashlight + Holster. The LED version gives you longer battery life and freedom from bulb burn-out. Also included are two sets of Duracell AA batteries.

Our last prize is an actual Radio with Shortwave! No, sorry, it's not a K3. It's an ETON American Red Cross FR250 Emergency Crank Radio. Some of the features are:

* AM/FM and 7 Shortwave bands(5.95-17.90MHz)
* Incorporates a unique fine-tuning control knob superimposed on the main tuning knob
* Built-in Dual White LED light source flashlight
* Built-in Single Red LED light source emergency flasher
* High-volume Emergency siren
* Cell phone charger/input for cell phone adapter tips
* All antennas built-in: telescopic antenna for FM and SW
* Can be powered from four different sources:
* Built-in rechargeable Ni-MH battery
* Dynamo crank
* 3 AA batteries
* AC Adapter (not included - available from Etón for separate purchase)

This actually worked very nicely on shortwave during the day picking up many stations.

So come on down to the meeting and get yourself prepared with one of these items.

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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: February, 1990

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

Television was the theme of the February meeting with Dave Schwittek, NW2T, as the guest speaker. Dave, who was the Chief Engineer at WHEC channel 10, enlightened attendees about new innovations such as stereo audio and high definition in the far future.

This month also saw the enactment of the RaRa Winter Fun Fest at Mendon Ponds Park. This popular event featured great food and games, but food was the main event. Delights such as Gos's chicken soup and Dave's chili were much enjoyed, but it was the gourmet desserts, and the chance to become a dessert Judge, that made the day.

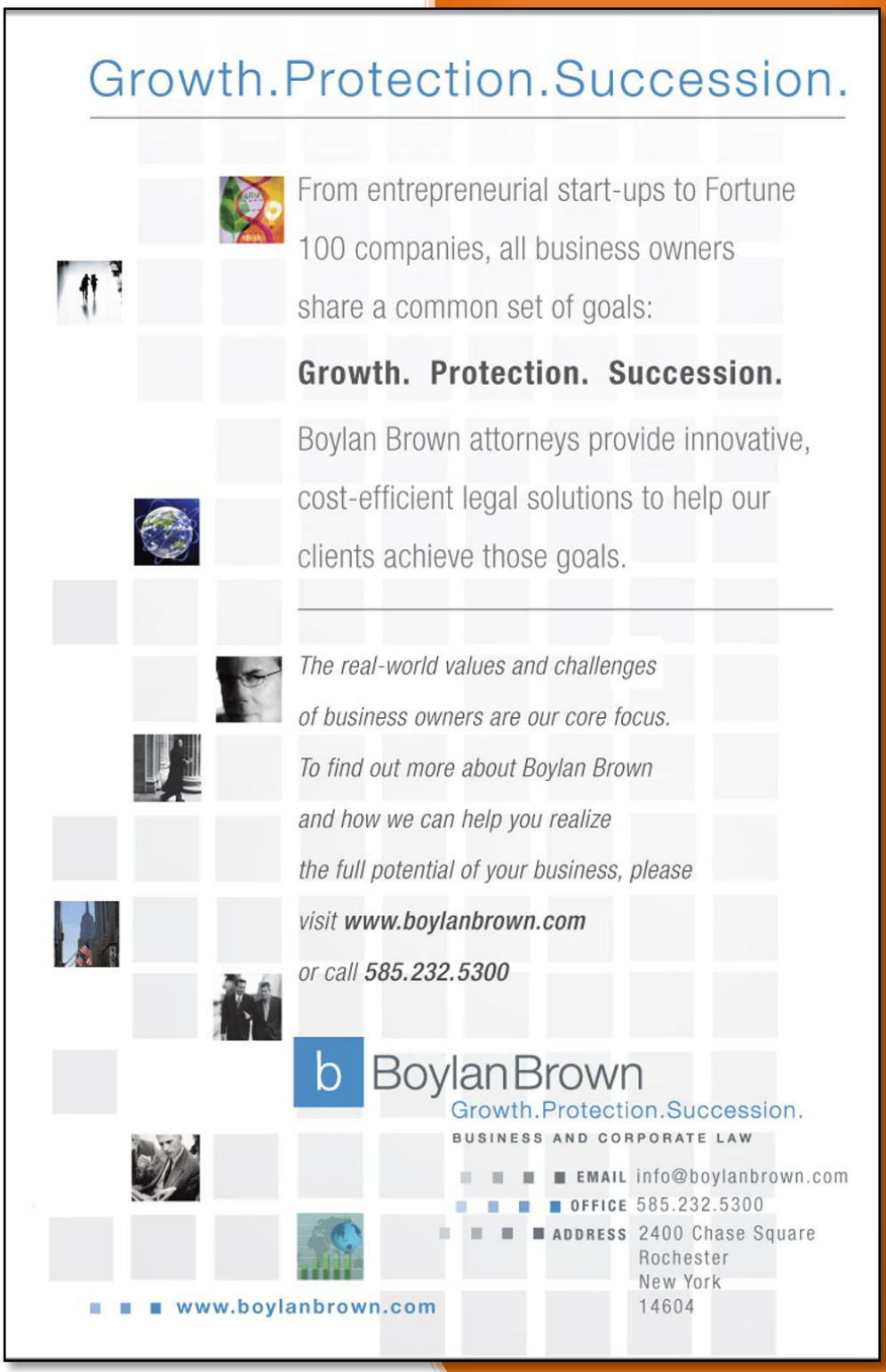
William Skinner, N2JXC, penned an article urging the formation of a local Ten Ten International Chapter to join the over two-hundred chapters world-wide.

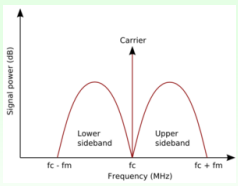
Code and Theory Class chairman Ed Gable, K2MP, wrote to announce the 33rd running of RaRa's popular classes. Instructors were Bob O'Connell, NF2Z and Joe Phillips, W2DHV doing the Novice theory and code, Ed, K2MP teaching Technician and General theory along with Bud Young, WA2UGE doing the 13 wpm code. Dave Schwittek, NW2T taught the Advanced class theory.

Writing for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association was Len Gessin, WA2ZNC who gave a nice rundown on RRRA's VHF and UHF repeater stations, their locations and frequencies.

The Rochester DX Association was active with Bob, WE2T, secretary, reporting that their meeting would feature a video on the installation of KM2P's new 90 foot tower.

At this time the RaRa Rag Co-Editors were Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP and Jack Dempsey, KA2PJN. From the Want Ads you could buy an ICOM IC-551 from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC for $400.00. Michael Rice, KB2SG, Attorney At Law, remained a long term advertiser.





Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

W7HAS Named Cybersecurity Chief. Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as appointed cybersecurity coordinator by President Obama. According to ***Washington Post*** (December 22, 2009), Schmidt had a similar advisory in the administration of George W. Bush. Prior to serving the Bush administration, Schmidt was the chief security officer at Microsoft and later had a similar role at eBay. He also worked on computer security at the FBI's National Drug Intelligence Center. Schmidt will report to deputy national security adviser John O. Brennan. Schmidt is an ARRL member.

New Licensees Increase. This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years." A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009 – an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks and just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 – a whopping 84 percent! **Courtesy of *The ARRL Letter***

MARS Gets New Focus. The Department of Defense (DoD) issued an *Instruction* concerning MARS, effective immediately. This Instruction gives the three MARS services – Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps – a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military *Auxiliary* Radio System. The *Instruction* is the first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988 – as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications. In the past, MARS had focused primarily on emergency communications and health and welfare support. The DoD's *Instruction* now directs the three MARS services to provide "contingency radio communications" to support US government operations, DoD components and "civil authorities at all levels," providing for national security and emergency preparedness events. MARS units will still continue to provide health and welfare communications support "to military members, civilian employees and contractors of DoD Components, and civil agency employees and contractors, when in remote or isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate." MARS must also be capable of operation in "radio only" modes – without landlines or the Internet – and sustainable on emergency power. Some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment. **Courtesy of *The ARRL Letter***

Last *Kon-Tiki* Survivor, SK. Knut Magne Haugland of Norway passed away on December 25. He was 92. Haugland was one of five men, who along with ethnographer and adventurer Thor Heyerdahl in 1947, successfully crossed the Pacific Ocean in a 45 foot raft made of balsa wood and bamboo – named *Kon-Tiki* – to prove that people from South America could have settled Polynesia in pre-Columbian times. Heyerdahl and his companions sailed the raft from Peru for 101 days and for more than 4300 miles across the Pacific Ocean before smashing into a reef in the Tuamotu Islands on August 7, 1947. The expedition used call sign LI2B and carried three watertight radio transmitters. The first operated on 40 and 20 meters, the second on 10 meters and the third on 6 meters. Each unit was made up

RaRa Memorial Scholarship

Application Deadline April 15, 2010

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entirely of 2E30 vacuum tubes providing 10 W of RF input. As an emergency backup, they also carried a German Mark V transceiver originally re-created by Britain's Special Operations Executive in 1942. Other equipment included a hand-cranked emergency set of the Gibson Girl type for use on the maritime bands, a special VHF set for contacting aircraft and two British Mark II transmitters. The *Kon-Tiki* also carried a National Radio Company NC-173 receiver. Dry batteries and a hand-cranked generator supplied the power. Heyerdahl chronicled the adventure in his 1950 book, *Kon-Tiki*. **Courtesy of *The ARRL Letter***

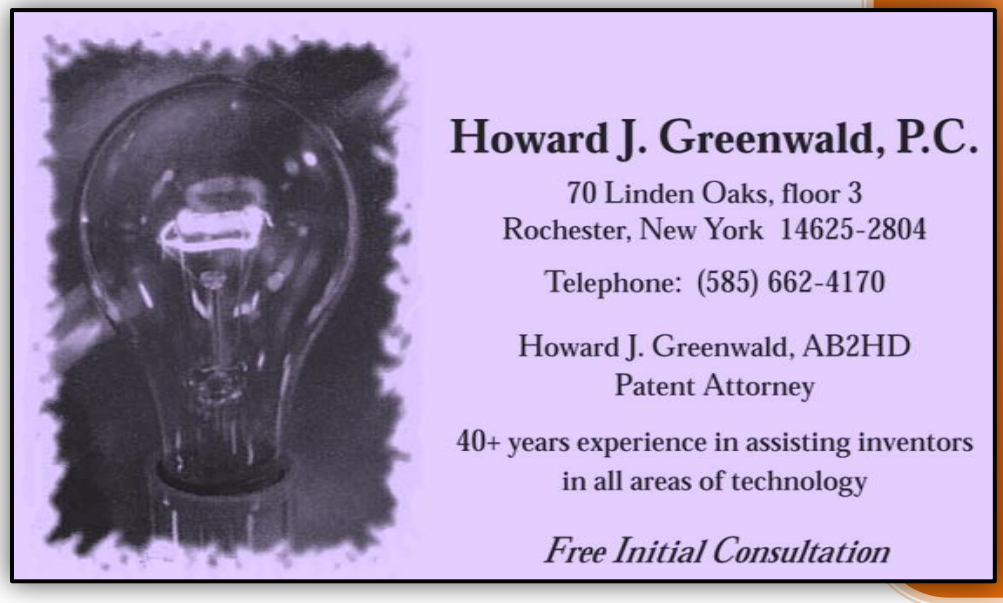
Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

Spots by Reverse Beacon. The web site http://www.reversebeacon.org is a useful tool for spots. You can call CQ on the HF bands and within a few seconds, you will see a report from one or more of monitoring stations using skimming software. The report includes your calling frequency, speed, and relative signal report.

New Year's Resolution. Handiham offers the following suggestion for a New Year's resolution: DOTA. This acronym stands for "Daily on the Air." The organization for disabled amateur radio operators lists about a half dozen reasons for this resolution, including protecting spectrum by using it, making new friends everyday, increasing opportunities to help others due to more frequent monitoring, and keeping one's station trouble-free and in top operating condition, to name a few.

URL Change for NZ4O. The propagation forecast website of Thomas Giella, NZ4O, has a new URL: http://www.solarcycle24.org. The NZ4O site has long been a mainstay for Hams seeking propagation information for LF, MF, HF, and 6 meters. It is updated daily.



Monroe County ARES Meeting – Thursday, February 25, 2010

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Emotional Go Kit: Are You Prepared?

As emergency/public service communicators we prepare our Go Kits and necessary gear to provide essential emergency/public service communications. How prepared are you concerning your emotional wellness during one of these events? Chuck Blocher, Ph.D., addresses the emotional well-being and preparedness for those amateur radio communicators participating in emergency and public service situations.

Chuck Blocher, Ph.D., KC2IQV, has been a member of the amateur radio community since 2001 and participates in emergency communications through both ARES and RACES with a keen interest in emotional wellness. He has done extensive research in resilience and how individuals are able to survive and thrive through personal traumas. Chuck is a certified professional life coach, researcher, and educator at a local college.

Chuck has prepared an exclusive presentation for Monroe County ARES members and invited guests. Mark your calendar, YOU are invited - Please join us for what is sure to be an enlightening evening, Thursday, February 25, 2010, 7:00 PM.

Meetings are held at Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester. Prince Street is just west of the Auditorium Theatre and runs south from East Main St. Although the address of the chapter is on Prince, the parking lot is actually on College Ave. on the north side of the building. Park in the lot and enter the big building at the main door.

K3 Presentation at the XARC February Meeting

By Bob Karz, K2OID

Ned Asam, W2NED will give a presentation on the Elecraft K3 to the Xerox ARC on Wednesday, February 3 at 5:30 at the club station. All area hams are invited. The station is located in the Xerox Recreation Association Building (#337) on Chiyhoda Drive in Webster. Take the Phillips Rd. exit off route 104 and go north. Chiyoda Drive is a left turn at third traffic light, and the 337 parking lot is the first right on Chiyoda.

This will be a hands-on presentation. The K3 is a high performance, DSP based, software defined radio with identical dual receivers. Its modular, user expandable architecture allows users to start "small" and expand as budgets allow and needs require. Along with its compact design and light weight the K3 is becoming the transceiver of choice for serious contest stations and challenging DXpeditions (e.g. Chesterfield Island).

RaRa Club LOGO Items

The Holidays are just around the corner; RaRa logo items are as great to give as they are to receive!

http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm

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RDXA News

By Paul Kolacki, K2FX

Many people don't think about doing much in the way of outside work during the winter months, unless you're a Ham Radio Operator. For some reason not known by me, a lot of our cold weather time is spent on Antenna Work. Wire and vertical antennas top the list. However, we all know that the dream project lurking in the back of our minds is a killer Tower Installation.

Due to the nature of our Rochester Winter Weather, that's not practical. However, it's not too early to start making your plans for that Spring Project. If you've been dreaming about erecting a tower at your QTH, then you don't want to miss the February Meeting of RDXA when Paul, K2FX will be presenting a program geared at the first time tower owner. All phases of construction will be discussed and many great tips will be provided to help ensure that your project goes smoothly.

If you are a Newbie, or a seasoned operator, this talk should offer something for everyone, so please come join us. The Rochester DX Association meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September thru May at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center located at 1190 Scottsville Rd, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14624. The February Meeting will be held on the 16th beginning at 7:30PM.

ARAST Winter Hamfest

By Tom English, N2YJY

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier (ARAST) is asking you to join them for the 29th annual Winter Hamfest to be held Saturday February 27, 2010 starting at 8:00 AM. Due to a conflict with our local Guard unit being deployed to Afghanistan, the location has been changed from the Armory. At the time of this writing we do not have a confirmed site for our Hamfest. Please keep your ears open for details on your local nets. At this time the board has NOT cancelled the event. We are attempting to locate a place that can accommodate our vendors and others that have been lined up.

Tables are still available at a discount price through the website (www.arast.org) and tickets can be purchased through that site as well. The location is changing but the price is still the same: $6.00 at the door, $5.00 presale and through the website: www.arast.org .

Talk-in for the Hamfest will be on the N3AQ repeater 147.36(+). Remember to mark your calendar for the ARAST Winter Hamfest Saturday February 27, 2010. We'll let you now the location as soon as we have confirmation. Come join us!

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W1AW 2010 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:
2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)
CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

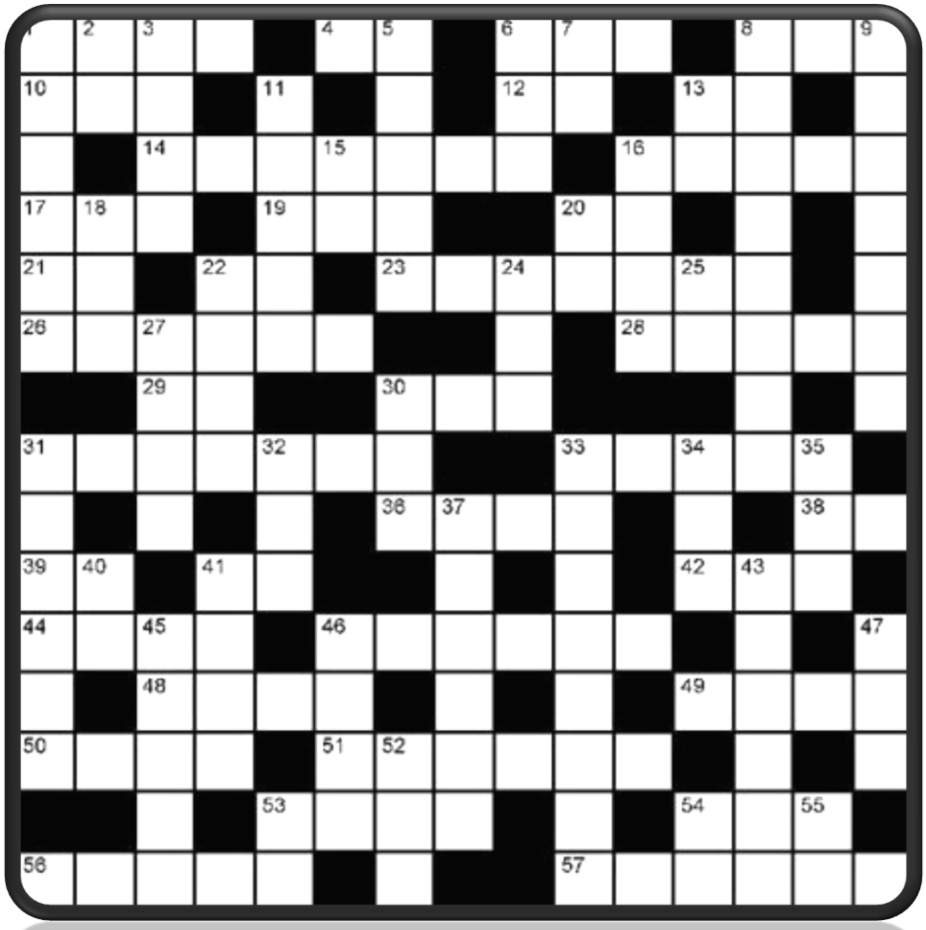
Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler (#364)

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

Licensing is in the air. A lot of students are out there hitting the books and the Volunteer Examiners are getting the paperwork ready. Will you be trying for a license upgrade?



*See next month's **RaRa e-RAG** for the solution.*

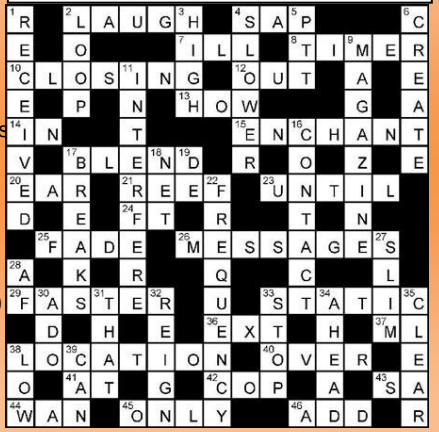
Across

1. To decipher Morse Code
4. Metric mass (abbr.)
6. Common queries (acronym)
8. To stop working is to stand ...
10. Community property owner's group (abbr.)
12. Controlled by radio (acronym)
13. Prosign meaning end of message
14. The event where tests are given
16. Study group led by a teacher
17. Orbits with ham radio (acronym)
19. A small amount
20. Most populous Caribbean U.S. posession (abbr.)
21. Prefix meaning "with"
22. Rarest of the Balkan entities (prefix)
23. A written exam
26. What happens to licenses after ten years
28. Put pen to paper
29. Energized
30. Image capture device (acronym)
31. To supervise or manage an exam
33. Guides for conduct
36. Single frequency audio
38. Even with low sunspots, DX ..!
39. State with the first primary (abbr.)
41. Largest ham event in June (abbr.)
42. Powerful explosive (abbr.)
44. Temporary record of passing an exam (acronym)
46. Unannounced attendance (two words)
48. Dance from KH6
49. Polaris is the North ....
50. Fibbed
51. Personally selected call sign
53. Not there
54. Method for managing emergencies
56. The only dumb question is one not .....
57. Reactivates

Down

1. Possible selection
2. ARRL Field Organization monitor (abbr.)
3. The best test outcome
5. Book that aids a student
6. FCC licensee ID (acronym)
7. Newest Morse prosign
8. This makes perfect
9. Test takers
11. Dreams come true when you wish upon this (two words)
13. Most popular material for building beam antennas (chemical symbol)
15. One of two continents entirely in the Western Hemisphere (abbr.)
16. Ship's sailors
18. Beantown baseball team
20. After noon (abbr.)
22. Metal used for galvanizing
24. Complete
25. Not required (acronym)
27. Group of test questions
30. Computer display (acronym)
31. Sharp implement used to record test answers
32. Find out later (acronym)
33. Sign up
34. Permit
35. Posture between prone and erect
37. Exams available over the Internet (two words)
40. ..MS is a protocol used for meteor scatter QSOs
41. Long-term fight between families
43. Announcement of an event
45. Examine for correctness
46. Electromagnetic energy travels as a ....
47. If you fail, you might do this
52. Electrical discharge
53. Stores information on your computer (acronym)
54. Not out
55. Opposite of NE

Last month's solution



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February e-Rag Deadline
February 17, 2010

RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month from September through May. Come join us at:

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